

example for others to follow and I am proud to call him my friend.

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection on the 51st anniversary of International Customs Day. On January 26, 1953, the World Customs Organization, formally known as the Customs Co-operation Council, held its first meeting in Brussels, Belgium. At this meeting, the Council designated January 26 as International Customs Day in order to recognize the role that customs services around the world play in facilitating trade while protecting national borders from importations posing security threats.

Finding this balance is particularly difficult given the challenges our country currently faces. It will be important for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to continue to offer the world class level of trade service and facilitation that U.S. business has come to rely on while ensuring that security needs are addressed. It will also be important to maintain the revenue collection linkage with the Treasury Department that has historically been so significant.

At one time, the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, then the Customs Service, was the sole revenue producer for the young United States. Although that role has diminished over the years, Customs collected a record \$23.8 billion in revenue in fiscal year 2002. Today, Customs is still a major source of revenue for the Federal Government, returning about \$8 to the taxpayer for every dollar appropriated by Congress.

For nearly 125 years, Customs funded virtually the entire government and paid for the nation's early growth and infrastructure. The territories of Louisiana, Oregon, Florida and Alaska were purchased; the National Road from Cumberland, Maryland, to Wheeling, West Virginia, was constructed; and the Transcontinental Railroad stretched from sea-to-sea. Customs collections built the nation's lighthouses, the U.S. military and naval academies, and the City of Washington, and the list goes on. In 1835, Customs revenues alone had reduced the national debt to zero.

Customs was the parent or forerunner to many other agencies. In the early days, Customs officers administered military pensions (Department of Veterans Affairs), collected import and export statistics (Bureau of Census), and supervised revenue cutters (U.S. Coast Guard). Customs also collected hospital dues to help sick and disabled seaman (Public Health Service) and established standard weights and measures (National Bureau of Standards).

During the first stages of the response to the terrorist attack on September 11th in New York and Washington, D.C., Customs quickly assumed a leading role. The international nature of the terrorist threat means that international customs cooperation has become vitally important. In January 2002, Customs initiated the Container Security Initiative (CSI), which allows Customs officials to screen con-

tainers at designated foreign seaports. In CSI's first year alone, Customs reached agreement with 15 governments to place Customs personnel at 24 ports.

The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection also works with customs officials in foreign governments through the auspices of the World Customs Organization, which speaks for 161 Customs administrations drawn from every continent and representing every stage of economic development. The United States has been a member since November 5, 1970.

WCO Members are responsible for ensuring that more than 98 percent of international trade is conducted in compliance with national legislation and international agreements. The WCO renders technical assistance in areas such as customs tariffs, valuation, nomenclature, and law enforcement. Its objective is to obtain, in the interest of international trade, the best possible degree of uniformity among the customs systems of member nations. America benefits when both exporters and importers operate in an atmosphere of simple unambiguous customs operations around the world.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection for its fine work both nationally and internationally, and I look forward to the completion of work within the World Customs Organization to further harmonize and simplify the customs rules that affect international commerce.

HONORING THE NORTH HAMPTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the contribution of bravery and dedication of an outstanding unit of first responders in my area, the North Hampton Volunteer Fire Department.

The following firefighters reached important career milestones in 2003:

Adam Millstein: 500 career calls.
James Harrington: 500 career calls.
Paul Satzger: 1,000 career calls.
William Bailey III: 1,000 career calls.
Kevin Jordan: 1,500 career calls.
Richard Marsico: 1,500 career calls.
John Kuss: 2,003 career calls.
Albert Hahn: 3,000 career calls.
David Hoburg: 5,000 career calls.

The following firefighters responded to over 100 incidents of fire calls in 2003:

David Hoburg: 455 calls.
Paul Satzger: 346 calls.
Adam Millstein: 321 calls.
Richard Marsico: 307 calls.
Albert Hahn: 305 calls.
Jerry Wittmer: 298 calls.
John Kuss: 267 calls.
John Damski: 255 calls.
Richard Waucher: 248 calls.
Vincent Conti: 240 calls.
David Primrose: 232 calls.
Chris Wise: 163 calls.
James Harrington: 156 calls.
Mary Primrose: 156 calls.
John Schwend: 146 calls.
William Bailey III: 138 calls.

Josh Rosensteel: 135 calls.

Kevin Jordan: 119 calls.

Clayton Kerrigan: 118 calls.

Drew Leahy: 107 calls.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in praising these brave individuals on the commitment that they have demonstrated to their critical mission of responding to fire emergencies.

HONORING MR. KEITH SCHNEIDER

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Keith Schneider for his work as President of the Building Industry Association of Central California.

As outgoing President of the Building Industry Association of Central California, it is only fitting that I take a moment to honor Mr. Schneider's life-long commitment to our community and to the building industry.

Born on November 14, 1948, Mr. Schneider's dedication to his profession has only been surpassed by his dedication to his family. Raised in Eureka, Illinois with his two sisters and parents, Mr. Schneider excelled at school. As a member of the Boy Scouts he was able to earn the merit of Eagle Scout. Mr. Schneider participated in many other activities as he played the banjo and participated in musical competitions and he was also a member of his high school track team and the debate team.

In 1966, Mr. Schneider attended Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa where he graduated with a degree in journalism. After graduation, he entered law school in Chicago in 1970. During this time, Mr. Schneider served two years in the Navy, stationed in San Diego and at the Great Lakes in Chicago.

In 1973, Mr. Schneider worked at the Civil Defense Agency in Springfield, Illinois. He met and married his wife, Carol, two years later in 1975. While in Illinois, he joined the Home Building Association.

In 1981, Mr. Schneider moved to Modesto, California where he became the Executive Officer of the Building Industry Association of Central California until 1990. In 1990, he then joined the staff of the Oakwood Builders until 1993. Mr. Schneider then accepted the position as Development Coordinator for the Diablo Grande and continues in this role by providing housing for this destination resort.

Mr. Schneider's commitment to the building industry as well as to our community is undeniable. He certainly lives up to the motto of the California Building Industry: "We're yesterday's shelter providers, today's problem solvers, tomorrow's dream builders."

It is an honor to recognize all of Mr. Schneider's achievements and to thank him for his service to our community.

HONORING KATHY CLONINGER

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as co-leader of the Honorary Congressional